

Appl. No. 10/802,177
Amdt. dated December 8, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 8, 2005

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rudder position indicator apparatus comprising:

a cam coupled to a steering linkage bar of a watercraft;

a rudder coupled to the steering linkage bar of the watercraft, the rudder being an inboard rudder comprising at least one vertical blade, wherein the at least one vertical blade is pivotable about a vertical axis thereof;

a steering mechanism coupled to the rudder via the steering linkage bar such that movement of the steering mechanism effects movement of the rudder;

a switch coupled to a fixed portion of the watercraft, wherein the cam activates the switch when ~~[[a]]~~ the rudder of the watercraft is in a centered position; and

an indicator in electrical communication with the switch to indicate to an operator of the watercraft when the rudder of the watercraft is in a centered position.
2. (Original) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cam is coupled to the steering linkage bar via a clamp hose.

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3. (Original) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch is coupled to a fixed portion of the watercraft via one or more brackets.
4. (Original) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch is a micro switch.
5. (Currently amended) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch is electrically connected to [[an]] the indicator, the indicator being a light located on a dash of the watercraft.
6. (Previously presented) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of brackets to secure the switch to the fixed portion of the watercraft, wherein the brackets are adjustable to adjust a position of the switch.
7. (Original) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cam includes sloped sidewalls and a substantially flat top portion.
8. (Currently amended) A rudder position indicator apparatus comprising:
 - a steering linkage bar of a watercraft;
 - a cam secured to the steering linkage bar;
 - an non-motorized rudder coupled to the steering linkage bar, wherein the non-

motorized rudder is movable via a translational movement of the steering linkage bar, and
wherein the steering linkage bar is controlled via a steering mechanism; and

means for contacting the cam when [[a]] rudder of the watercraft is centered;

and

means for indicating when the rudder of the watercraft is centered.

9. (Original) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for indicating includes a light located on a dash of the watercraft.

10. (Previously presented) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cam includes two sidewalls joined by a top portion, wherein at least one of the sidewalls is substantially sloped.

11. (Previously presented) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cam has a substantially D-shaped cross-section.

12. (New) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the steering mechanism is a steering wheel.

13. (New) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 8, wherein the steering mechanism is a steering wheel.

14. (New) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 8, wherein the rudder is a vertically hinged plate mounted at a stern of the watercraft.
15. (New) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the steering linkage bar is controlled by mechanical components including at least one of cables and hydraulic actuators to transmit steering commands from the steering mechanism to the steering linkage bar.
16. (New) The rudder position indicator apparatus of claim 3, further comprising at least one insulator member between the switch and at least one of one or more brackets to mitigate excess vibration in the switch.
17. (New) The rudder position indicator of claim 6, wherein first and second brackets are provided, the second bracket being coupled to the switch, wherein at least one of the first and second brackets includes a slotted aperture such that a position of the second bracket and thus, the switch, can be adjusted with respect to the first bracket.